

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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P R 121000Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5600

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 0976

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, YO

SUBJECT: CU FY 1976 BUDGET FOR YUGOSLAVIA

REF : VIENNA 0469; STATE 28357; STATE 29132

1. POST WISHES SUBMIT FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON PROPOSED
FY 1976 BUDGET:

2. ACADEMIC EXCHANGES: AYES PROGRAM PROPOSAL CALLS FOR
USG CONTRIBUTION IN DINAR EQUIVALENT OF DOLS 235,000 FOR
CURRENT YEAR. GOY CONTRIBUTION WOULD THEREFORE BE DOLS
47,000. POST ESTIMATES DOLS 200,000 NEEDED FOR DOLLAR
SUPPORT OF PROGRAM IN US (STIPENDS FOR YUGOSLAV STUDENTS,
SENIOR SCHOLARS, US PROFESSORS). TOTAL FOR ACADEMIC
PROGRAM: DOLS 482,000.

3. POST HAS HAD ENCOURAGING NUMBER OF FAVORABLE
RESPONSES TO TENTATIVE INVITATIONS EXTENDED NOMINEES
LISTED BELGRADE A-426. ALSO HAS ONE OR MORE WELL-QUALIFIED
CANDIDATES FOR NEARLY ALL REMAINING MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS.
THIS WILLINGNESS PARTICIPATE USG SPONSORED ACTIVITIES
HAPPY REVERSAL OF TENDENCY, SINCE 1972, TO DECLINE
GRANTS. POST WISHES BE IN POSITION RESPOND POSITIVELY
TO THIS SITUATION, THEREFORE REQUESTS DOLS 90,000 FOR
IVP.

4. AM SPECS: ESTIMATE NEED DOLS 10,000 FOR THIS
ACTIVITY.

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5. CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS. POST WOULD ASSIGN CAL STATE PROJECT HIGHER PRIORITY AT MOMENT THAT FSU/BELGRADE EXCHANGE, ESPECIALLY SINCE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB CONFIRMS IT WILL PAY ITS SHARE OF PROJECT (FINAL APPROVAL BY UNIVERSITY STILL PENDING BUT EXPECTED SHORTLY). MOST IMPORTANT PART OF FSU/BELGRADE PROGRAM FROM POST'S POINT OF VIEW, IS YUGOSLAV STUDENT EXCHANGE. POST HOPES FUNDS CAN BE FOUND TO INCREASE NUMBER OF GRANTS TO TWELVE, THUS PERMITTING INCLUSION OF U OF TITOGRAĐ STUDENTS. THIS OBLIGATION COULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL TRANSITIONAL QUARTER SINCE FSU WOULD NOT NEED DOLLAR SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS UNTIL FALL TERM. SUGGEST YUGOSLAV STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PROJECT APPLY TO AYEC FOR TRAVEL ONLY GRANTS. MONETARY SEMINAR HAS SOME VALUE FOR POST'S OBJECTIVES AND WOULD URGE THAT IF POSSIBLE, MONEY BE FOUND FOR THAT AND FOR EXCHANGE OF YUGOSLAV SENIOR SCHOLARS. POST UNABLE COMMENT ON ACADEMIC VALUE OF US STUDENT SUMMER PROGRAM, BUT FROM POINT OF VIEW OF POST OBJECTIVES, THIS HAS LOWEST PRIORITY.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST NOTIFICATION OF AMOUNT AYEC TO RECEIVE THIS YEAR. COMMISSION PLANS BEGIN COMPETITION FOR GRANT GRANTS MARCH ONE AND NEEDS TO KNOW APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF GRANTS IT WILL BE ABLE AWARD. ALSO, AYEC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEGOTIATING WITH YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES ABOUT GOY CONTRIBUTION FOR THIS PROGRAM YEAR; NEEDS TO KNOW AMOUNT OF USG CONTRIBUTION IN ORDER REQUEST PROPER AMOUNT FROM GOY.
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